

15 May, 02023

Senator Hickman, Senate Chair
Representative Supica, House Chair
Members, Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

100 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0100

Re: LD 1914 - An Act to Enact the Maine Psilocybin Health Access Act

Position: In support

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished Members of the Committee,

My name is Yeshua Adonai, I reside in Camden, Maine, and I am a U.S. Marine Staff Sergeant combat veteran and former U.S. Diplomat touched by the transformative power of psilocybin; for the sake of the lives of my peers; please approve the Maine Psilocybin Health Access Act (LD1914).

As a member of the Veteran Mental Health Leadership Coalition (VMHLC), I represent 62 veteran founding partners from 38 veteran organizations across the Nation that have assisted thousands of veterans in experiencing the transformative healing benefits of psychedelic medicines, including psilocybin. Our Coalition is led by retired Marine Lieutenant General Marty Steele, the Chief Executive Officer of Reason for Hope, an affiliated policy organization focused on transforming the mental healthcare system through psychedelic-assisted therapy.

As veterans, we've experienced tremendous pain due to our time in service, struggling with PTSD, anxiety, depression, paranoia, hypervigilance, and suicide. The traditional solutions we receive from Veterans Affairs are marginally effective; we need innovative solutions for radical times. Because the FDA recognizes psilocybin as a breakthrough treatment, we consider it an unjust crime to withhold such potent transformative medicine. Please accept the bill to establish therapeutic access programs and protect practitioners from criminal penalties for seeking psilocybin as a natural medicine.

As a result of my healing with natural medicines, I've become a social entrepreneur,entheogenic sacred mushroom church minister, and executive coach, dedicating my life to creating a more harmonious and caring world. I co-founded Psychedelics for Maine Veterans, a community of Maine veterans providing psychedelic education, and treatment resources, encouraging legislation participation & peer integration circles. I am a council member at Natural Medicine Maine and a founding member of Decriminalize Midcoast Maine. With key stakeholders, we are at the early

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stage of investigating how to reallocate Opioid settlement funds and fees to increase responsible access to psychedelic treatment and research in Maine. I consult and advise various organizations within the psychedelics industry throughout our Nation.

An emerging movement is on the rise, fueled by natural medicine, positively and directly contributing to the mental health of tens of thousands of citizens raising their voices. Next month, I will be among the expected 10,000 attendees participating in the Psychedelic Science Conference at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver. In Portland, Maine, last weekend, at the Maine Fungi Fest, I engaged with dozens of veterans and hundreds of supporters of psilocybin. Our veteran volunteers supported the community in contacting their local representatives and writing public testimonies for this bill. Please don't delay the inevitable; listen and respond to our inalienable right to health so that we may become engaged and contributing citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration; reach out anytime.

In Appreciation,

Yeshua Adonai

Veteran Mental Health Leadership Coalition (VMHLC) member, vmhlc.org

Psychedelics for Maine Veterans, co-founder, psychedelicsformaineveterans.org

Psanctuary Sacred Mushroom Church Minister, psanctuary.org

The Association of Entheogenic Practitioners (AEP) member, aep.community

Sacred Plant Alliance pending member, sacredplantalliance.org

Heroic Heart Project Ambassador, heroicheartsproject.org

Natural Medicine Maine Council member, naturalmedicinemaine.com

Decriminalize Midcoast Maine, founding member